

DOCKET NO. D-2006-5 CP-1

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Alsace Township
Wastewater Treatment Plant Project
Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Ludgate Engineering Corp on behalf of Alsace Township on February 22, 2006 (Application), for review of Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Project. The project was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) via Water Quality Management (WQM) Permit 0606404 and NPDES Permit No. PA 0246956 jointly on May 22, 2006, contingent upon approval by the DRBC.

The Application was reviewed for inclusion/continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Berks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on September 27, 2006.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this project is to provide a WWTP to serve an area that currently utilizes failing on-lot septic systems.
2. **Location.** The project is located at 65 Woodside Avenue in the Alsace Manor section of Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The project outfall is located on an unnamed tributary of Little Manatawny Creek in the Schuylkill River Watershed as found on the *Fleetwood, PA* USGS Quad as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 23' 58"	75° 50' 44"

The WWTP outfall is located at River Mile 92.47 – 54.15 – 16.7 – 4.7 – 1.9.

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will receive wastewater flows from a predominantly residential portion of Alsace Township, in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

For the purpose of defining the Area Served, the Application is incorporated herein by reference consistent with conditions contained in the DECISIONS section of this docket.

4. Physical features.

a. Design criteria. The proposed WWTP is designed to provide secondary treatment to an average flow of 0.071 mgd from 201 homes that are currently served by failing on-lot septic systems. The proposed WWTP is designed to handle a maximum monthly flow of 0.094 mgd via a dual-train of extended aeration treatment units. Nitrification will be assisted chemically via the addition of soda ash. Following ultraviolet light disinfection WWTP effluent will be discharged through a 2,000 feet long outfall to unnamed tributary of Little Manatawny Creek.

b. Facilities. The existing on-lot septic systems will be replaced by a 0.071 mgd Purestream, Inc. dual-train extended aeration package treatment system, which includes the following facilities: an influent pumping station, an influent equalization tank, two 35,500 gpd aeration tanks, a sludge holding tank, a chemical addition unit, an ultraviolet light disinfection unit, and a gravity-flow outfall line.

The project facilities are above the 100-year flood elevation.

Emergency power will be provided by an Onan diesel generator.

Waste sludge will be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for deposit at a State-approved facility.

c. Water withdrawals. The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by individual on-lot wells.

d. NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket. The NPDES Permit No. PA 0246956 approved by PADEP on May 22, 2006, includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.071 mgd to an unnamed tributary of Manatawny Creek, classified by the PADEP as a Cold Water Fishery. The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE: DRBC Parameters (*) Included in NPDES permit for Outfall 001

OUTFALL 001 (to an unnamed tributary of Manatawny Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times *	as required in the NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l (85% minimum removal*)	as required in the NPDES Permit
Dissolved Oxygen	5 mg/l (minimum at all times)	as required in the NPDES Permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	25 mg/l (85% minimum removal*)	as required in the NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	4.0 mg/l 12 mg/l	as required in the NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/l *	1/month
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30) (10-1 to 4-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg. 3,700 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	as required in the NPDES Permit
Total Residual Chlorine	0.30 mg/l	as required in the NPDES Permit

e. **Cost.** The overall cost of this project is estimated to be \$4,268,300.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The project was not previously included in the Comprehensive Plan. The project discharges to an unnamed tributary of Manatawny Creek located in the drainage basin of the Schuylkill River in an area conditioned as “Modified Recreational” within the Schuylkill River Scenic Designation, which was added to the Comprehensive Plan on October 26, 1988 by Docket No. D-78-50 CP (Revised).

B. FINDINGS

The limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

PADEP approved the Act 537 Plan for the 0.071 mgd Alsace Manor WWTP on August 15, 2002.

Near the project site, the unnamed tributary of Little Manatawny Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 0.065 mgd (0.1 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the average design wastewater discharge from the 0.071 mgd plant is 0.9 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge is operated by the Pennsylvania American Water Company and it is located on the Schuylkill River, approximately 32-river miles distant.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2006-5 CP-1 below, the project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section A of this docket entitled, “Physical features” above shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in the Section A of this docket entitled, “Physical features” above are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP in its joint NPDES and WQM Permit, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission’s. Commission approval of this docket is contingent on the PADEP’s approval of the NPDES permit.

b. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

d. The docket holder shall maintain and make available to DRBC upon request, records identifying the sources, volumes and characteristics of all wastewaters and sludges treated at the WWTP, as well as the dates when off-site wastes were received and treated. Records are to be retained for 5 years.

e. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the Effluent Table in the Section A.4.d. of this docket.

f. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

g. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

h. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

i. Sound practices of excavation, backfill and reseedling shall be followed to minimize erosion and deposition of sediment in streams.

j. Within 10 days of the date that construction of the project has started, the docket holder shall notify the DRBC of the starting date and scheduled completion date.

k. Upon completion of construction of the approved project, the docket holder shall submit a statement to the DRBC, signed by the docket holder's engineer or other responsible agent, advising the Commission that the construction has been completed in compliance with the approved plans, giving the final construction cost of the approved project and the date the project is placed into operation.

l. This docket approval shall expire three years from date below unless prior thereto the docket holder has commenced operation of the subject project or has expended substantial funds (in relation to the cost of the project) in reliance upon this docket approval.

m. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge the categories of wastewaters defined in the "Area Served" section of this docket.

n. The docket holder shall make wastewater discharge in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

o. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

p. Nothing in this docket approval shall be construed as limiting the authority of DRBC to adopt and apply charges or other fees to this discharge or project.

q. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

r. A complete application for the renewal of this docket, or a notice of intent to cease the operations (withdrawal, discharge, etc.) approved by this docket by the expiration date, must be submitted to the DRBC at least 12 months prior to the expiration date below (unless permission has been granted by the DRBC for submission at a later date), using the appropriate DRBC application form. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below, the terms and conditions of this docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

s. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval, or require mitigating measures, pending additional review.

t. The docket holder and any other person aggrieved by a reviewable action or decision taken by the Executive Director or Commission pursuant to this docket may seek an administrative hearing pursuant to Articles 5 and 6 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, and after exhausting all administrative remedies may seek judicial review pursuant to Article 6, section 2.6.10 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure* and section 15.1(p) of the Commission's *Compact*.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED: September 27, 2006

EXPIRATION DATE: April 30, 2011